

REMARKS

Summary of The Official Action

The foregoing amendment and remarks that follow are responsive to the Office Action mailed December 6, 2006. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 96/32694 A1 to Muramatsu et al. (hereinafter "MURAMATSU"). The Examiner objected to Claim 7 due to an informality.

Notably, Claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13 were indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 2-11 and 13.

Applicants submit that entry of this Amendment after Final Action is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 because this amendment only cancels claims and complies with the requirements of form set forth in the final Office Action and presents the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Objections to Claim 7 - Informality

Claim 7 is objected to because the phrase "the holder drive mechanism" should be recited as "the holder drive part" to be consistent with the language of Claim 3. Applicants hereby amend Claim 7 to overcome this objection. In particular, the word "mechanism" has been replaced by the word "part."

Rejection of Claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MURAMATSU.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully disagree that Claim 1 is anticipated by MURAMATSU. However, in the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicants have cancelled Claim 1 without prejudice and expressly reserve the right to present this claim in a future divisional or continuation application.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 12 as being anticipated by MURAMATSU, Applicants respectfully disagree that Claim 12 is anticipated by MURAMATSU. However, in the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicants have amended Claim 12 to depend from allowed Claim 2 instead of rejected Claim 1 without prejudice and expressly reserve the right to present this claim in a future divisional or continuation application.

As part of this amendment, the language of Claim 12 has been amended to conform to the language of Claim 2. More specifically, the phrase "clamp mechanism" has been changed to "engagement member." Accordingly, the language regarding the first and second parts has been revised to reflect that such first and second parts are each engaged with the recess of one of opposing sides of the recording medium and that "the recording medium is held between the first and second parts of the engagement member." Because independent Claim 2 is indicated as being allowable, Claim 12 which now depends from it is also now believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

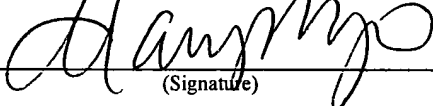
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March 6, 2007

(Date of Transmission)

Mary Ngo

(Name of Person Transmitting)



(Signature)

March 6, 2007

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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